

A woman who fears the
Lord is to be praised.



Confidence...

[n 1: **freedom from doubt**; **belief** in yourself and your abilities; 2: a feeling of **trust** (in someone or something); 3: a state of confident **hopefulness** that events will be favorable; 4: a **trustful** relationship; 5: a secret that is confided or entrusted to another]

Prov. 31:30

Grace may be deceitful, and beauty vain, *BUT* a woman who fears Jehovah, she shall be praised. (LITV)

"On what are you basing this confidence of yours?"

(Isaiah 36:4)

What do I base my confidence on? Definitely not myself! I have proven all too many times the ever present realities of my inadequacies and shortcomings. Scriptures that talk about this come to mind immediately: "the heart is evil above all things...", "my flesh is weak...", "flee temptation..." I bear witness to these verses as I need to draw healthy boundaries around my mind and affections.

Take a moment and look up Philippians 3. Paul says not to put confidence in the flesh and I readily agree!

So, where does my confidence come from?

Place your confidence in the completeness of God. In His:

- Holy love
- Desire to have communion with us
- Strength, provision, & faithfulness
- Grace, mercy, & forgiveness
- Salvation, adoption, home in Heaven
- Sovereignty, creativity, righteousness
- Generosity, sacrifice, gift of Jesus
- Redemption, gift of His Spirit, comfort & counsel
- Everywhere presence – before, behind, around, in...
- Personal interest in me, desire for good, plans

God's Completeness!

*"And Jehovah lifted the face of Job..".
Job 42:9*

Now, I don't just mean His powerful hugeness, although that does make me stand to attention! (If you need a fresh dose of awe, read Job 38-41) What I am referring to is His complete greatness, His holy love, His rich mercy and kindness shown to a 1,000 generations who love Him. I am talking about His great grace and unending forgiveness. God's greatness in provision, purpose, and in the minutest details is greater than our minds can comprehend. If you read Job as mentioned above, do not stop until you finish chapter 42 for His greatness is displayed in a wonderful way. Look at **Job 42:9** with me as it is written in the *Literal Translation*: "*And Jehovah lifted the face of Job...*" Most of the other versions say that God accepted Job's prayer or his face... But don't you just love this picture! What greatness – what love & compassion. In this I have total confidence, that even when I fail and need disciplining, He will be the one to teach, to mend, fix, and set me on the right path again. He loves me, and He loves you, too!

He designed me!

Isaiah 42:2; Psalms 139:13; Jeremiah 1:5

This is where I find my worth or 'self' confidence, in knowing that God specifically planned, formed, designed, & mapped me out! ...and then He saw that it was very good! He is proud of me, likes me, offers free makeovers, and promises me everlasting life. (sounds like a commercial doesn't it?) I don't see where else I can find this internal reassurance from other than knowing this. He believes in me and has gone out of His way to provide everything that I need to succeed – He is extravagant and generous, giving His only Son, Jesus and then leaving His Holy Spirit to dwell in us and literally; seal the deal!

I am forgiven.

- **He has sent my sin away – as far as the east is from the west...** (*Psalms 103:11-13*)
- **Nothing can separate me from the love of Christ.** (*Romans 8:38-39*)
- **I am forgiven. I am accepted!** (*Ephesians 1:6-8*)

We must stop trying 'to do' and instead rest in the confidence we have of knowing God's will and that He loves us.

Confidence is peaceful determination to do what we know is right, trusting in Truth. It does not swerve to the left or the right & is not swayed by public opinion. It knows the Spirit of truth and runs gladly with Him.

"Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. 36 For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise..." Hebrews 10:34-36 (New King James Version)

Simple thought...

God designed me – and saw that it was good.
God looks out for me – all things work together for good.
He's forgiven me – because in myself I am not good.
He's given me a purpose – to do good.
God has given me a place in His home – now that is very good!